



NEWS RELEASE

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Palmdale Man Sentenced for Sexual Assaults of Joggers

A man dubbed the "Aqueduct Rapist" was sentenced today to 23 years in state prison for sexually assaulting two female joggers in Palmdale, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Aug. 3, a jury found Heriberto D. Romero (dob 10/28/81) of Palmdale, guilty of two counts of assault with intent to commit rape and one count each of attempted kidnapping to commit rape, false imprisonment by violence and dissuading a witness from testifying.

Deputy District Attorney Scott A. Yang said Romero also was ordered today to register as a sexual offender for the rest of his life.

On Jan. 17, 2015, a 20-year-old woman was taking an evening run at Pelona Vista Park when Romero snuck up behind her and began the assault, according to court testimony. During the assault the defendant struggled with the victim over her cell phone while she attempted to call for help and ultimately succeeded in taking the phone away from her, the prosecutor said.

Romero's second victim was a 24-year-old woman jogging along the California Aqueduct on the afternoon of Sept. 15, 2015, the prosecutor said. The defendant had been hiding in the bushes before he jumped out and sexually assaulted the victim, according to trial testimony.

Case MA067023 was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.